New population control scheme

1821. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have plans to implement a new scheme for population control;

(b) whether under this scheme, the private hospitals would reach villagers' door steps and would offer them free contraceptives and other healthcare facilities; and

(c) whether this new plan would be tried initially in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh as these two States have the highest population growth rates after Bihar and Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The National Commission on Population (NCP) has formulated a Pilot Project for providing contraception and immunization services to the people through private hospitals in areas where the level of unmet needs for such services is very high. Under the pilot project people would be provided contraception and immunization services at private hospitals approved for the purpose by the Government on the basis of offers received in response to a public advertisement. Payment for the services would be made by the Government. This Project was prepared on the basis of the field visit undertaken by the Member Secretary of the Commission to Raipur District of Chhattisgarh and after detailed discussions with the concerned State officials and within the Planning Commission. The Project Proposal formulated by the NCP has been forwarded to the Department of Family Welfare for wider consultation and discussion before being taken up for implementation. It is proposed to implement this project on a pilot basis in a few selected high fertility districts in the country including Raipur District of Chhattisgarh.